

February 23, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
ON THE  
NOTICE OF PROJECT CHANGE

PROJECT NAME : Abington Transfer Station  
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : 1477 Bedford Street - Abington  
PROJECT WATERSHED : South Coastal  
EOEA NUMBER : 8694  
PROJECT PROPONENT : Abington Transfer Station, LLC  
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : January 7, 2004

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G.L. c.30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.10 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I have reviewed the Notice of Project Change (NPC) submitted on this project and determine that it **does not require** further review under MEPA.

The project originally consisted of the construction of a 39,800 square foot (sf) building for receiving and processing of 1,800 tons per day (tpd) of waste. The 1,800 tpd would consist of 1,200 tpd of municipal solid waste (MSW) and 600 tpd of construction and demolition (C&D) material. The project also included the construction of a 20,000 sf vehicle and container maintenance storage facility for a solid waste hauling company on the 24-acre Brendon Realty Trust site with an access driveway onto Route 58. The transfer station would be located on 6.9 acres. On July 31, 2000, the Secretary determined that the Single EIR adequately responded to the Certificate on the prior NPC.

This NPC was submitted for MEPA review on December 31, 2003. The proponent is proposing to reduce the total permitted capacity of the facility from 1,800 tpd to 600 tpd, and to accept only C&D material. The proponent has also abandoned its plans to develop a 20,000 sf vehicle and container maintenance storage facility on the adjacent 24-acre Brendon Realty Trust (BRT) site.

Many of the commenters on this NPC have requested that I require the preparation of a additional Environmental Impact

Report (EIR) for this project. While several concerns have been raised by commenters, I cannot find in this instance that the reduction in the size of the project by 66% "significantly increases the environmental consequences" of the project to provide a basis under 301 CMR 11.10(6) and (8) to require a Supplemental EIR. My determination, however, should not be interpreted to suggest that the concerns that have been raised are not valid. Several remaining issues will undoubtedly require further analysis and review by DEP and the Abington Board of Health during the site assignment process.

The Abington Board of Health and DEP's permitting authority are sufficient to address and mitigate any impacts from this proposed project. DEP will ultimately determine whether this facility should be permitted and whether it is consistent with the Beyond 2000 Solid Waste Master Plan. In its review of any permit request, DEP should coordinate closely with the Abington Board of Health. DEP should review the comments in the MEPA record to ensure that technical issues are addressed in permitting. In particular, DEP should examine the project for consistency with any new setback requirements and/or air quality standards under the site assignment regulations.

Access to the Abington Transfer Station site will be provided from the driveway onto Route 18. According to the proponent, the project is estimated to generate approximately 302 daily trips, reduced from 600<sup>1</sup> daily trips studied in the SEIR. The Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD) has indicated that the impacts of the project change will be significantly less than the original project. The proponent should address the concerns stated in DEP's comment letter dated January 27, 2004. DEP should consult with the MHD and the Town of Abington to identify if any additional traffic mitigation by the proponent is required along Route 18.

The proponent no longer plans to develop the BRT site. I note, however, that based on zoning the BRT site could support a 30,000 sf office building with 100 parking spaces (according to the proponent). Access would be provided onto Route 58. If this type of development occurred, this would generate about 450 new

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<sup>1</sup> Note that the figure of 600 daily trips does not account for the 144 daily trips associated with the maintenance storage facility studied in the SEIR, since that portion of the project has been abandoned. The SEIR projected a total of 744 daily trips for the transfer station and the maintenance storage facility combined.

trips, use 2,475 gallons per day (gpd) of water, and generate 2,250 gpd of wastewater. If the proponent or a successor revisits plans to redevelop this site within the next five years, the MEPA office should be contacted to determine what reviews may be required.

With respect to mitigation, the proponent has committed to provide the necessary construction and signage to provide a left turn lane storage area southbound at site driveway with Route 18, if the MHD widening project on Route 18 has not been completed by occupancy. The details of this roadway modification should be resolved in the MHD permitting process. The proponent must also implement the additional mitigation commitments identified in the Single EIR, or it must satisfy the permitting agency as to why the commitments are no longer relevant.

Based on a review of the information provided by the proponent and after consultation with DEP and MHD, I find that the potential impacts of changing this project from an 1,800 tpd facility to a 600 tpd facility do not warrant preparation of a Supplemental EIR. I am confident that any remaining issues can be addressed through the local and state permitting processes. I remind the proponent, however, that if the project increases in tonnage or if any other material changes are made, it is obligated to file an additional NPC and may be subject to further review under MEPA.

February 23, 2004

DATE

Ellen Roy Herzfelder

cc: Sharon Stone, DEP/SERO  
Representative Ronald Mariano

Comments received :

Holly Moore, 1/7/04  
Gerard F. Haas, 1/12/04

Claire Haas, 1/12/04  
Debbie Dalrymple, 1/15/04  
Charles Collins, 1/20/04

Unknown Commentor, 1/21/04  
SITEC Environmental, 1/21/04  
Denise Delory, 1/22/04  
Rita Rust, 1/22/04  
Michael Smart, Weymouth City Councilor, 1/22/04  
Greg Shanahan, Weymouth City Councilor, 1/22/04  
David M. Madden, Mayor of Weymouth, 1/23/04  
Dennis M. Lynch, Sr., 1/24/04  
Helena S. Guerriero, 1/25/04  
REACT, 1/25/04  
REACT, 1/26/04  
Doris E. Norrison, 1/26/04  
Priscilla Guerriero, 1/26/04  
DEP/SERO, 1/27/04  
Sharon Collins, 1/28/04  
MHD, 1/29/04  
Richard M. Glyn, 1/30/04  
REACT, 1/30/04  
REACT, 1/30/04  
Robert F. Scales, 2/2/04  
Joseph Cellini, 2/2/04  
Francis J. Quinn, 2/3/04  
Beth Sortin, 2/7/04  
Richard J. Cooley, 2/9/04  
Abington Board of Health, 2/9/04  
The Gormans, 2/10/04  
Heather & Marc Savaria, 2/10/04  
William M. Buckley, 2/10/04  
Kathy Creighton, 2/11/04  
Einhorn Yaffee Prescott, 2/11/04  
Dorie Hall, 2/11/04  
Robert A. & Katharine A. Maguire, 2/11/04  
REACT, 2/13/04  
OCPC, 2/13/04  
Clean Water Action, 2/13/04  
Wanda C. Farrar, 2/14/04  
Lois Barrett, 2/14/04  
Carl Wicklund, 2/16/04  
Sharlene M. Cellini, 2/17/04  
Harvey Welch, 2/17/04  
Matthew & Adrienne Whalen, 2/17/04  
John E. Hall, Jr., 2/17/04  
Edwin T. Mattson, 2/17/04  
Barbara L. Mattson, 2/17/04  
Paula J. Davidson, 2/17/04  
Carol A. MacPherson, 2/17/04

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NPC Certificate

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Janice Beale, 2/17/04  
Cheryl Curran, 2/17/04  
Debbie Kerr, 2/17/04  
Bernard J. Devereux, 2/17/04  
Charles W. Collins, 2/17/04  
Kerry A. Knapp, 2/17/04  
Representative Ronald Mariano, 2/19/04  
SITEC, 2/20/04

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ERH/WTG/wg